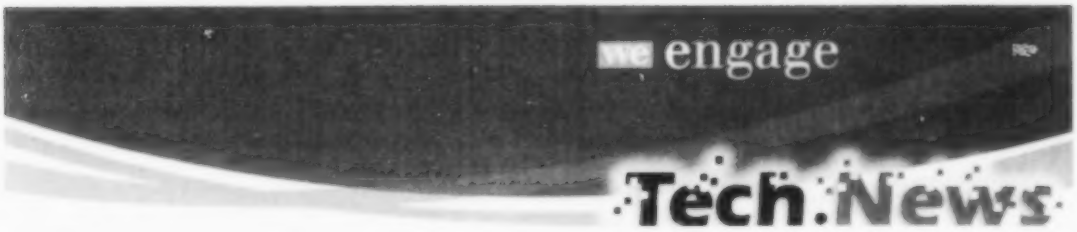

Tuesday, March 31, 2009

Supporting Innovative Classrooms Initiative

In June 2008, Alberta Education issued a Call for Proposals for Alberta school jurisdictions and charter schools to research innovative practices in the areas of technology management and leadership development for the effective use of technology. After a competitive evaluation process, 26 proposals from 29 jurisdictions were approved for a total of $6.8 million in funding.

The Supporting Innovative Classrooms initiative will take place over the 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 school years. Projects will involve jurisdiction administrators, principals, teachers and technical support staff participating in projects to enhance technology leadership for teaching and learning and to improve technology management practices.

A complete list of the successful projects is available on the Alberta Education website at http://education.alberta.ca/admin/technology/sic/participants.aspx.

For more information, contact Marilyn Steier, Education Manager, at Marilyn.Steier@gov.ab.ca or by phone at 780-415-0839.

Interview with Education Minister Dave Hancock

The *MindShare Learning Report - 21st Century* Alberta spotlight podcast interview with Alberta Education Minister Dave Hancock took place on March 3, 2009. Topics included:

- Minister Hancock's visit to the Learning and Technology World Forum in London, England in January 2009
- 21st century skills assessment
- Leadership in use of technology
- Funding for ICT
- Emerge One-to-One Laptop Learning initiative research
- Trends in ICT
- Gaming
- Partnerships between industry and Education
- Teacher preparation and development
- Inspiring Education dialogue

Upcoming Events

JTC Meeting

Vol. 8 No. 8

tech.news is an electronic newsletter for Alberta's education community. It is produced by Alberta Education, Stakeholder Technology Branch.

Send your questions, suggestions, or article submissions to tech.news@gov.ab.ca.

Next edition: April 2009

LINKS:

Alberta Education website – Technology section

LearnAlberta.ca website

Emerge One-to-One Laptop Learning initiative website

Technology and High School Success initiative website

May 13, 2009 at Fantasyland Hotel, Edmonton – This event is open to Jurisdictional Technology Contacts and invited guests only.

Council of Ministers of Education, Canada - New Website

The Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC) launched an enhanced web site in March 2009. The website, www.cmec.ca, is a resource for education stakeholders and the general public. It provides access to CMEC educational materials and tools, showcases CMEC initiatives and activities and serves as a gateway to the education systems of the provinces and territories.

Alberta Education led the development of the new site, in cooperation with staff at the CMEC Secretariat and in consultation with other provinces and territories.

CMEC is an intergovernmental body composed of the ministers responsible for elementary, secondary and advanced education in the provinces and territories. Through CMEC, ministers share information and undertake projects in areas of mutual interest and concern.

Career and Technology Studies Update

Planning Considerations
With the implementation of the revised Career and Technology Studies (CTS) program, school authorities will need to consider the September 2009 implementation of the revised Business, Administration, Finance and Information Technology (BIT) and Trades, Manufacturing and Transportation (TMT) strands. In September 2010, the remaining three strands of Health, Recreation and Human Services (HRH), Media, Design and Communication Arts (MDC) and Natural Resources (NAT) will be implemented.

Reporting Information
The submission of the report for spending in 2008/2009 will assure the payment of the next funding allocation. Information about the Career and Technology Studies (CTS) Equipment Evergreening and Enhancement Fund and the reporting document are available on the Alberta Education website at http://education.alberta.ca/teachers/program/cts/news.aspx as well as in the *Funding Manual for School Authorities 2009-2010* on the Education website at http://education.alberta.ca/admin/funding/manual.aspx.

Social Networking and Privacy

With the surging popularity of social networking website, more students and young people are creating online profiles to share information about themselves. While this has created opportunities for personal expression, collaboration and the development of communities, social networking sites have also created many privacy concerns.

The Privacy Commissioner of Canada has produced a short video explaining the problems associated with putting personal information on social network sites. The video is available online at http://blog.privcom.gc.ca/index.php/privacy-on-social-networks/. An information sheet on Social Networking and Privacy is also available on the site at http://www.privcom.gc.ca/fs-fi/02_05_d_35_sn_e.asp.

Research Articles

The Unique Challenges Facing the IT Professionals in K-12 Education - March 2009

This survey by SchoolDude.com, eSchoolNews and Consortium for School Networking (CoSN), looks at issues related to staffing levels, computer assets, software and systems and IT funding. To access an executive summary, visit: http://marketing.schooldude.com/marketing/it/2008-k12-it-survey-exec-summary.pdf

To read the entire report, you are required to view the webcast by registering at http://info.schooldude.com/webcasts/2009/03/annual-it-survey/. The free webcast includes a link to download the full 40-page report.

Horizon Report: 2009 K-12 Edition – March 2009

New Media Consortium's Horizon Project is an ongoing research project to identify and describe emerging technologies likely to have global impact on teaching, learning, research or creative expression within education. This report examines emerging technologies for their impact on and use in teaching, learning and creative expression in the K-12 environment.

http://www.nmc.org/pdf/2009-Horizon-Report-K12.pdf

21st Century Learning Environment – January 2009

This white paper, a report from the Partnership for 21st Century Skills, offers a descriptive view of the places, tools, people and policies that make up 21st century learning environments.

http://www.21stcenturyskills.org/documents/le_white_paper-1.pdf

Tools4Teachers

New Resources

The following course is now posted to the Tools4Teachers site:

- Mathematics 1

The Tools4Teachers website can be accessed at http://www.tools4teachers.ca/. Contact your school administrator for a login and password.

For more information, contact Lori Ristoff at Lori.Ristoff@gov.ab.ca or by phone at 780-674-8719.

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